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**CRISIS.**

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N U M B E R, LXXXI, *To be continued every Saturday,*  
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

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SATURDAY, August 3, 1776, Price Two-pence Half-penny.

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Continued from our last.



THE salvation of the people and the King's lands; was the tyrants plea for unlimited power over the property of the subject in the last century. *To ease the estates of the gentry of this kingdom\**, is the present claim of the British Parliament, to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever. No power can be safe but what is limited. Reason, justice, and the latent principles of society, all declare, that there are bounds, which, by God and nature are fixed, beyond which Parliament cannot pass, without violating the first and clearest principles of law, and all those barriers set up as marks; whereby kings, ministers, and parliaments, are

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† See the protest of the House of Lords against the repeal of the *Stamp Act*.  
equally



equally obliged to conduct themselves. The venerable sages of the law have solemnly adjusted, that acts of parliament, against natural equity, are void : *jura natura, sunt immutabilia*. The business of parliament is to declare the rights of the people not to give them. This without derogating from its dignity, is beyond its prerogative. If right, belongs only to him, who views with an equal eye both prince and people ; who neither slumbers nor sleeps ; whose rain falls equally upon the just and the unjust. Though the business of parliament is to declare, what is for the welfare and happiness of the people, yet it is by no means inferred that the declaration makes any law so : consequently, if the legislature shall have enacted any laws which shall appear palpably, and by " evident consequence," to have a direct tendency to destroy the inherent primary, and essential rights of freemen, they must in their own nature, be illegal, necessarily void, and not binding upon the subject. It is equally evident, that they who attempt to make or enforce such laws, supersede reason, and that great charter given by God to all men at their creation, and which no power under heaven, can take away, without waging war upon the subject, and incurring the censure of tyranny and violence.

It has been apprehended, by some, that such extensive colonies, like an over grown child, will exhaust the parent state. The Cases of the antient Phoenecians, and modern Spaniards, have been mentioned, on this occasion, and even urged as an argument, to justify administration, in the violation of their rights. But all who read history are not able to apply it, and make the proper distinctions.

If Great Britain is to be ruined, as these speculators imagine, by the flight of her inhabitants to America, it is high time to set the new house in order, for our comfortable accomodation, and welcome reception : if any unforeseen catastrophe, should render these favourite islands, no longer tenable in this quarter, we may retreat to America, and the present is a most advantageous season, for laying a solid foundation, for the speedy re-establishment, of a dominion which no power on earth will be able to annoy.

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Though the wars of Asia, drove the feeble and defenseless Phœnicians to Carthage, and the mines of Mexico and Peru, depopulated Spain, yet Great Britain, by a wise conduct, may improve her Colonies, even for the encrease of her population, as well as the aggrandizement of her power : every body knows that the number of her inhabitants, is vastly encreased, since the discovery of the New World : and can any man be ignorant, that this is owing, to the augmentation thereby given to her commerce ? The encrease of people depends upon the encouragement given to marriages ; trade and commerce give that encouragement : manufactures exported, draw subsistence from foreign countries for numbers, who are thereby enabled to marry, and raise families. But if by violence and oppression, Great Britain impedes or loses her American trade, and no new employment is found for our manufacturers, occupied in that trade, she will soon be deprived of so many inhabitants,

As the inhabitants of Great Britain, emigrate to America, in a treble proportion, will be the increase of the inhabitants from the parent stock : there is no bound to the prolific nature of men, but what is made, by their interfering with each others subsistence ; if all the nations in Europe were obliterated in one instant, Polipus like, they would in a small period of time, be replenished by the natural generation of Great Britain alone : The same causes, will produce the same effects ; the spanish emigrations drained the old state, chiefly because they sent her money instead of merchandize ; Spain was converted into a castle of indolence and pride ; she acquired silver and gold from her colonies, not real wealth. Money begets luxury and indolence ; the consequences are evident, commerce drops her head ; manufacturers are at a stand ; uncrowded ports : fields mourn ; the hand of cultivation is with-held ; a warm climate, bad religious police enervated the body, dried up the fountain of health, and the springs of nature stood still.

If Great Britain is attentive to her own, and the trade of her colonies, she may dismiss all fear of her own depopulation, or their increase ; nay, it will be her interest, to encourage their increase.



The Colonies are universally agitated by suspicion, fear, and disgust, let Britain abandon her unreasonable jealousy, it is become a national disease, and will if it continues, be the ruin of us all: if she means to oppress her colonies, their common danger, will, in spite of all opposition, unite them together; the present offensive laws are a proof of it. A people are never weak, while the principles remain, which made them strong; prosperity may make them wanton; but the history of mankind, will scarce furnish an instance of Provinces, setting up an independancy for themselves, unless the yoke of oppression galls; if there is a recourse to a dominion, founded only on fear, it can last no longer, than till the controuling power is distressed by a general war; the revival of the contest for liberty, at such a crisis must produce tragical consequences, defying all calculation.

The nation will rejoice at our madness and folly, and leave us nothing, but the miserable consolation of unavailing complaints, and wishes for the recovery of lost opportunity. But if we abandon our partiality, and generously consult the common weal, by devising a constitution friendly to every branch of the general whole, linking Great Britain and her Colonies, by indissoluble ties, what ground can there be for jealousy †? when once secured in their lives, religion, liberty, and property, their affections will revive, and ten thousand cords may be contrived to tie us together, by the bonds of love and interest, and give peace, health and vigour to the whole.

One cannot take the state, nature, climate, and prodigious extent of the American continent, into contemplation, without high prospects in favor of the state to which it belongs; it is sufficient to be the granary, of all the rest of the British dominions: fed by the American plough, Britain may attend more the cultivation of sheep, by that staple, and the collection of raw materials from them, and by them, she may convert the whole island, into a great town of manufacturers, undersell every nation in Europe, and maintain and exalt her supremacy, until heaven blots out all the empires in the world.

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† See a sketch of the constitution of the Colonies, recommended to Parliament, in a Pamphlet, entitled, America vindicated.



All is at present sunshine, and we are now at the meridian of our political career; but night with all his gloomy horrors, may come, and from a quarter little expected; futurity must determine on which side the scale of fortune will turn; the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, did the history of the two last wars, prove the Americans less brave, than the inhabitants of this island? does the climate, the religion, the government, the education of the people, furnish sufficient grounds, in favour of that idea? I know there have been men, high in military employ, who have ventured to propagate that opinion, notwithstanding the evidence of facts, and, to the honour of the present administration, with too much success.

How well the Americans were disciplined at the commencement of the last war, the unprejudiced pen of faithful historian may best relate: and is it to be supposed they have degenerated in point of military skill, by the large proportion they bore in the actual service of the late war? It should be remembered, the Colonies raised twenty thousand Provincials, who were disbanded, after three years service, and at the end of that period new regiments raised in their room: These men are most of them now residing in America, and are equally concerned with the rest, in defending their just rights: such a body of disciplined troops, at the head of their numerous militia, may bring the *haughty Minister at their feet*, a deaf ear to their complaints, has already begot, a sullen abhorrence to their masters; oppression has made the wisest, mad, and the weakest strong; America may prevail and triumph over those who would enslave them, history is full of events, which at the time they happened seemed more improbable. The states of Holland and Switzerland, are cases in point; they have been often recited; they ought to instruct and alarm us: it is not with America alone, we have to contend; will the nations of Europe, remain patient spectators, and not engage their interposition? Would such a conduct be consistent with past experience, and the invariable policy of princes? Enraged, even to madness, at the loss of conquered provinces, it would be the very perverseness of folly, notwithstanding the most prolific assurances, to suppose, that France and Spain will stand neuter in the general confusion of our affairs; the cause of America, is theirs; it is for this we fought, for this we conquered? Shall our blood be spilt, and our treasures expended in defence of maxims, cruel beyond barbarism, which leads to our own disgrace,



disgrace, and the success of our enemies? shall we destroy the very end of our acquisitions, and victories?

Should America prove successful in the present contest, she may demand as the terms of reconciliation, monuments of public Justice, for the bloody sacrifice of her sons: the smiles of a gracious sovereign, may not always afford a safe retreat to the instruments of oppression; they may be turned into frowns! I have been deceived, I have been abused may be the language from the throne; a dispirited minority may become the major voice! and in that day of trial the whole nation at length, be convinced, that supreme right, must, in its own nature, finally get the better of wrong! that men are only bound by benefits! that no dominion is secure, but what is founded on affection, or on the practice of the eternal, unalterable laws of moderation and justice.

To be concluded in our next.

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